

Every Breath You Take Air Quality in Your Region

What is a non-attainment area?

A geographic area that does not meet the “primary” health standards for air pollutants established by EPA under the Clean Air Act.

What are the consequences of being a non-attainment area?

- Emissions testing
- Risk of losing federal highway funds
- Fall under the rules and regulations of GRTA (Georgia Regional Transportation Authority)
- Regulatory controls on major pollution sources
- Accountability to reduce pollutants (non-attainment area local governments must inventory pollution sources and prepare plans for reduction)

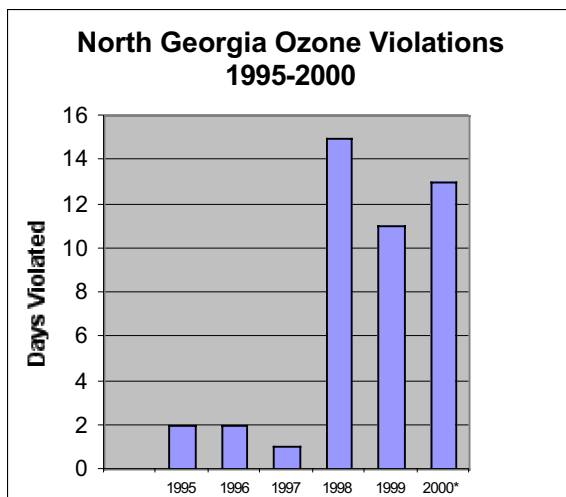
What does this have to do with Northwest Georgia?

- Paulding County is a non-attainment area because it does not meet federal air quality standards.
- Tougher air quality standards for Ozone will likely be imposed by the federal government within the next few years.
- Governor Barnes has recommended Bartow County for consideration as a non-attainment area under the more stringent 8-hour Ozone standard.* This recommendation is under consideration by EPA.
- The Governor of Tennessee has recommended Whitfield, Walker and Catoosa counties for consideration as non-attainment areas under the more stringent 8-hour Ozone standard. This recommendation is also under consideration by EPA.

* A 1999 federal court ruling blocked implementation of these standards, which EPA proposed in 1997. EPA has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider that decision.

Is our air quality getting worse in Northwest Georgia?

Ozone monitoring stations located in Fannin and Dawson Counties collected data indicating that between 1995 and 2000, levels of Ozone became more dangerous and Ozone violation days more frequent. See graph below.



Concern about declining air quality is so great that the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI) was created to identify and recommend emissions management strategies to remedy existing and prevent future adverse air quality effects in Southern Appalachia. Eight southern states lead SAMI with full backing from their governors.

For more information visit www.saminet.org.



Every Breath You Take (Cont.)

How will poor air quality and non-attainment affect my quality of life?

Health Concerns

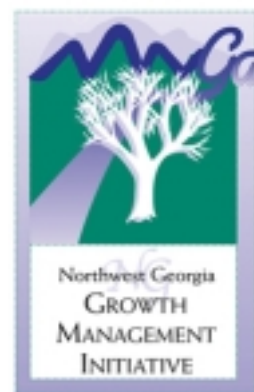
- Ozone can trigger asthma attacks.
- Children and the elderly are at greater risk of respiratory problems.
- Outdoor activities become more dangerous to normally healthy individuals.
- Lung function is decreased.

Economic Development

- Industries must meet tougher emissions standards and become more difficult to attract.
- Regional haze renders scenery less attractive, discouraging tourists.
- Road improvements are limited.

Environment

- Regional haze
- Ozone effects to forests



Fact Sheet